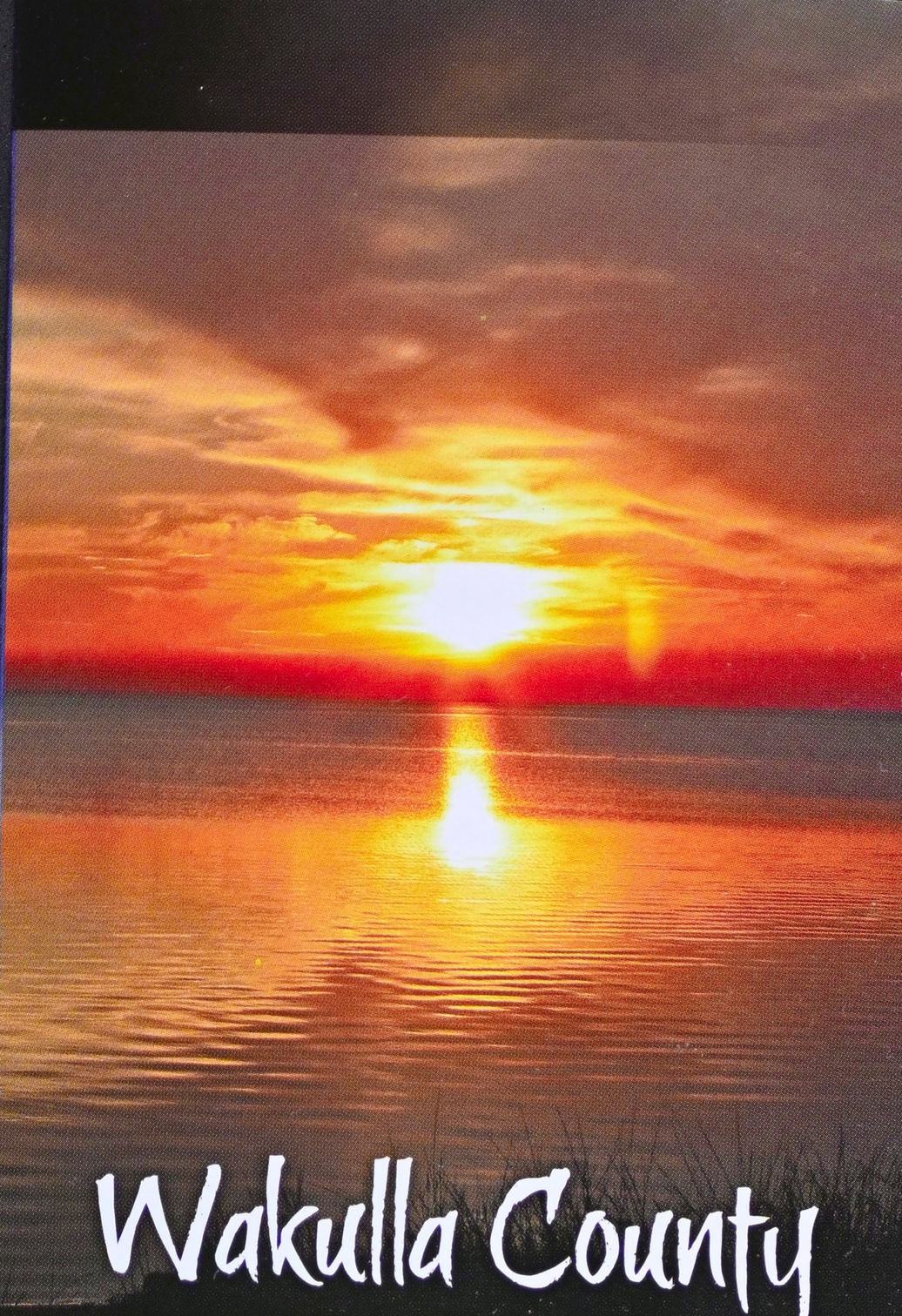
Visit Wakulla

The Natural Place to Be in Florida

VisitWakulla.com
or call (850) 984-3966



Wakulla County

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Located along the Gulf of Mexico coastline in the Big Bend of Florida, with 73 percent natural lands and 85 percent natural coastline, Wakulla County is home to some of Florida's greatest wonders. Unspoiled by over-commercialized attractions and devoid of a hectic atmosphere Wakulla County provides a natural getaway. Wakulla County is located along the Gulf of Mexico in Florida's Big Bend, just 25 miles due south of Tallahassee.

Begin your exploration of Wakulla County at our website, www.visitwakulla.com.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Things to Do

Hiking and Biking

If you are a visitor who can never resist the call of a trail, then you have arrived in the right place! We have miles and miles of hiking and biking trails that crisscross our county from one end to the other. You can choose a short leisurely stroll, a scenic bicycle ride, a day hike, or a challenging "swamp stomp" deep into the remote wilderness. Most trail maps can be obtained on-site or download from our website.

Bird/Wildlife Watching

With vast acres of undeveloped lands and protected wildlife sanctuaries, our natural areas support an unbelievable abundance of wildlife with verified counts of over 300 species of migratory and nesting birds; 52 species of mammals such as the West Indian manatee and Florida black bear; 40 species of amphibians, and 65 species of reptiles. The migratory periods of spring and fall are exceptional seasons for bird watching. The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail runs through Wakulla County with several officially designated sites.

Kayaking and Canoeing

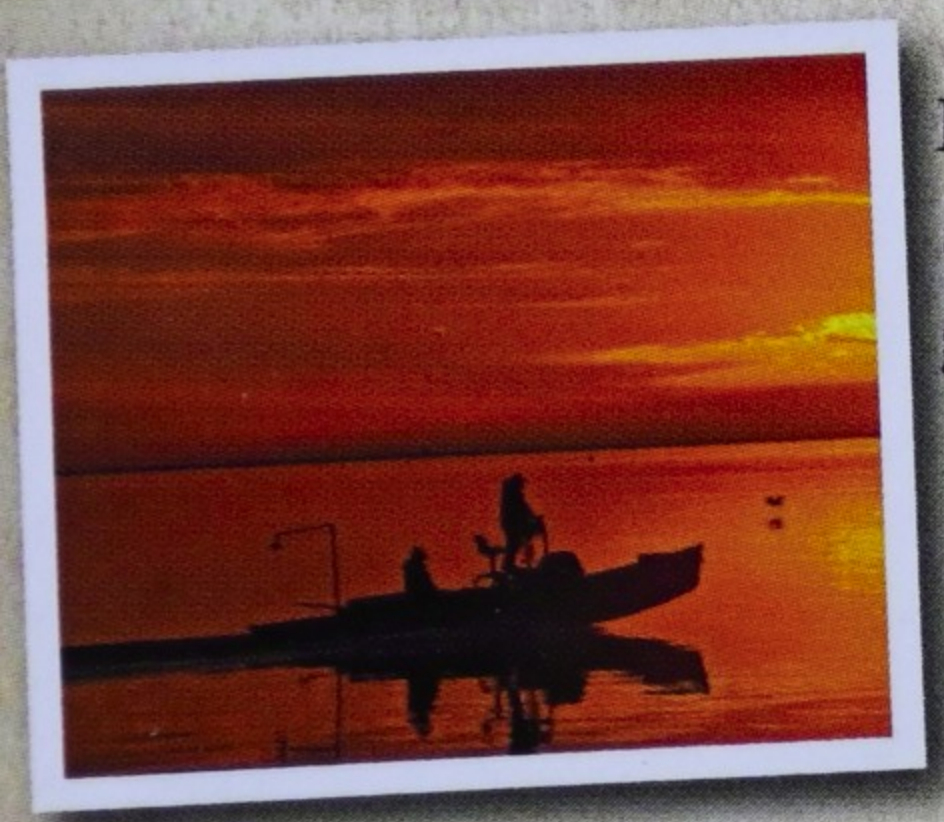
Wakulla County has the distinction of three Designated Paddling Trails – Lower Ochlockonee River Paddling Trail, Sopchoppy River Paddling Trail and Wakulla River Paddling Trail. Ten trails make up the Apalachee Bay Maritime Heritage Paddling Trail System along our coastal shores. Explore our Big Bend Saltwater Paddling trail a 105-mile paddling trail on the Gulf of Mexico between the St. Marks River lighthouse and the Suwannee River.

Beaches

Where sand meets the quiet waters of the salty bay discover our beaches for swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, beachcombing, snorkeling, sailing, kayaking, boating, and fishing.

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting types allowed in Wakulla County are conventional gun, archery and primitive weapons. Rules and guidelines change from year to year. For clarifications or updates on the seasons or regulations please visit myfwc.com/hunting.



Enjoy fishing from the shore or coastal waters, anglers can fish for trout, redfish, tarpon, grouper, cobia and snapper. Fresh water rivers are abundant with bream and bass.

Our website lists outfitters/guides, marinas and boat landings.

Big Bend National Scenic Byway

The 220 mile long Big Bend National Scenic Byway consists of two very distinct trails - the Forest Trail and the Coastal Trail. The Forest Trail will expose you to several different forest types and take you past many freshwater rivers and streams. The Coastal Trail likewise is also divided into three segments of East, Central and West. It is Coastal Trail East that encompasses the coastal areas of Wakulla County. Along this trail you will encounter natural beaches, salt marshes and tidal flats – the buffet bars for fish and birds, and estuaries that serve as nursery beds for fish and shellfish like oysters, shrimp and crab. Download details, maps for entire Byway, floridabigbendscenicbyway.org

History and Attractions

San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park

Walk through nearly 500 years of recorded history on your visit to San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park located strategically at the confluence of the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers.

Small museum displays recovered artifacts. Short entertaining video explains the history.

Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Get an up-close view of local marine life at this friendly non-profit aquarium that boasts the largest array of touch tanks in the continental United States. Glass aquariums house a collection of

seahorses, octopus and jellyfish. Larger tanks feature sharks, sea turtles, stingrays and saltwater fish. Outside are rescue tanks with rehabilitating marine life and a large assembly of hermit crabs.

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park sits atop a wondrous maze of underground caverns and the world's deepest and longest fresh-water spring. The 6,000 acre park overflows with wildlife that can be seen daily on the 45 minute riverboat ride through the protected corridor of the Wakulla River. Wakulla Springs State Park and Lodge is listed on the Natural Register of Historic Places and is designated as a National Natural Landmark.

Tallahassee to St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail

The attractive corridor of the Tallahassee to St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail passes underneath towering stands of longleaf pine through part of the Apalachicola National Forest, past quiet rural communities with picnic and rest areas, a park and playground. The main trailhead begins just south of Capital Circle Southeast and ends at the St. Marks River Trailhead in the historic waterfront community of St. Marks. The trail accommodates cyclists, hikers, joggers and skaters. Dogs on a leash are permitted. An adjacent trail is available for equestrians.

St. Marks Lighthouse and National Wildlife Refuge

The St. Marks Lighthouse is on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The lighthouse grounds are accessible within the National Wildlife Refuge, but for now the tower is only open to the public on special occasions. Future plans are to open the lighthouse as a museum and historic site.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge encompasses a broad sweep of salt marshes and tidal flats, brackish impoundments, cabbage palm hammocks and pinelands with great opportunity for exceptional views of birds and wildlife.

Festivals and Events

Worm Gruntin' to Stone Crabs - Wakulla County celebrates annual traditions like no other place on earth. With nearly 40 festivals each year, there's something for everyone — every month.

Check our website for detailed listing.

Local Seafood

People travel from miles around just to buy Wakulla County's famously fresh seafood, and with retail markets located from one end of Wakulla County's coastline to the other, you'll find options aplenty for everything from fresh oysters, shrimp and crab to locally caught mullet, flounder, grouper, red snapper and cobia — just to name a few!

Lodging

Whether you're coming for the beach, a kayaking adventure, birding, a fishing excursion or just to enjoy Wakulla County's endless natural beauty, you'll find a lodge, B&B, vacation rental home or hotel that fits your needs.

Wakulla County's campgrounds and RV parks are a reflection of the laid-back lifestyle. Close to the rivers, forests and beaches spend some time off the beaten path.

Transportation:

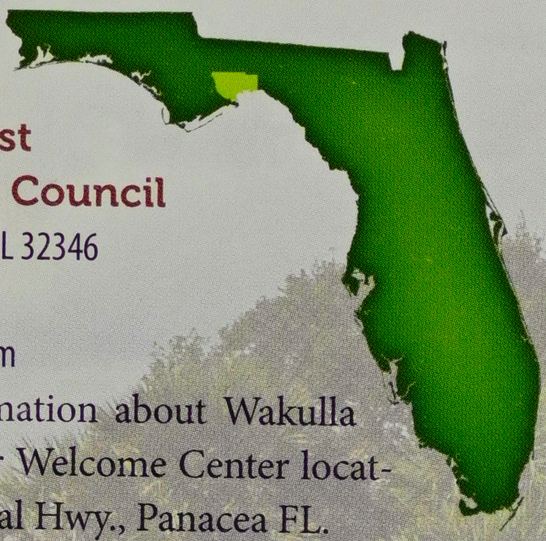
Tallahassee Regional Airport (TLH)

Phone: (850) 891-8900

Wakulla County Airport (2J0)

Is a public use airport located 3 miles south of Panacea, FL. This general aviation airport is open to the public.

Phone: (850) 321-0373
Email: fultsie@aol.com



Wakulla County Tourist Development Council

P.O. Box 67 Panacea, FL 32346
850-984-3966
www.visitwakulla.com

For more information about Wakulla County, visit our Welcome Center located at 1505 Coastal Hwy., Panacea FL.

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